

Minutes of IQAC Meeting
Thursday, 20 October 2022
Hybrid Meeting (WebEx)
Board Room, First floor, Administrative Block

AGENDA ITEMS:

The following were the agenda items:

1. Roll Call and Welcome [Procedural]
2. Condolence for Late Soman Nair
3. Approval of today's meeting's agenda items [Procedural]
4. Approval of 14 April 2022 minutes of meeting [Procedural]
5. Action Taken Report of 14 April 2022 meeting
6. New IQAC (effective from
7. Highlights of NEP
8. NIRF Analysis of past 5 years
9. Discussion on ERP
10. Feedback of Stakeholders (Faculty, Parents, Students, Employers and Alumni)
11. Alumni Engagement
12. Academic Audit 2022
13. Administrative Audit 2022
14. Any other point with Chair's approval

1a. Roll Call & Welcome

The meeting commenced at 4:00 PM.

Committee Members (in attendance)

1. Dr. K.S. Dasgupta
2. Dr. Ranendu Ghosh (I/C Registrar)
3. Prof. Minal Bhise (Women's Cell Convenor)
4. Prof. Maniklal Das (Dean (AP))
5. Prof. M.V. Joshi (Dean (R&D))
6. Prof. Bhaskar Chaudhury (Dean (Students))
7. Prof. Yash Vasavada (Associate Dean (R&D))
8. Prof. Aditya Tatu (UG Convenor)
9. Prof. Ahlad Kumar (Placement Cell Mentor)
10. Prof. Sanjay Srivastava (Alumni Association Faculty Rep)
11. Prof. Saurabh Tiwari (PG Convenor)
12. Vishvesh Patel (201901464) (SBG Convenor)
13. Siddharth Rathod (201901162) (UG Student)
14. Jheel Shah (201901452) (UG Student)
15. Niyam Chhaya (201312004) (Alumnus) – joined online
16. Anil Roy

Committee Members (absent)

1. Mr. Srikant (Management Representative)
2. Chetanshi Mehta (202218023) (PG Student)
3. Hima Patel (200411001) (Alumnus)
4. Mr. Nilesh Ranpura (eInfochips)
5. Mr. Manmeet Purbey (Google)

6. Mr. Sumeet Singh (Quinbay Technologies)

2. Condolence for Late Soman Nair (Agenda Item #2)

IQAC Director requested all to observe a 90 sec silence to pay homage to the departed soul of our colleague and Registrar Late Soman Nair. It was a matter of profound grief for all of us that Soman Nair passed away on 7 June 2022 of cancer coupled with the COVID-19. This was the third tragic loss to our DA-IICT family.

After this the Director asked to start the usual proceedings of the meeting.

3. Approval of today's meeting's agenda items [Procedural] (Agenda Item #3)

Approved.

4. Approval of 14 April 2022 minutes of meeting [Procedural] (Agenda Item #4)

- Date of Meeting: 14 April 2022
- Minutes of Meeting sent to all: 8 October 2022

Approved.

5. Action Taken Report of 14 April 2022 meeting (Agenda Item #5)

- 1 actionable item was minuted in the past meeting.

i) Agenda #8: AQAR of past four years

Action to be taken: AQARs to be submitted on NAAC portal.

Responsibility: IQAC Director

Action Status: AQARs of 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2020-21 were submitted on the NAAC portal in September 2022. Three of them were accepted without any problem. The AQAR of 2021-22 was rejected with minor comments of non-submission of supporting documents in the prescribed template. IQAC Director informed the members that it would get completed in next few weeks.

CLOSED

ii) Follow up on some pending points of 29 Dec 2020 meeting

Action to be taken: Launch of Grievance Redressal Portal

Responsibility: Dean (AP)

Action Status: SBG informed that the portal was ready. Delay was just because of the ongoing midsem exams. The Dean (AP) promised that it was on his priority.

Remained partially OPEN

6. New IQAC (effective 1 October 2022) – welcome and thanks

Change in IQAC was made because:

Registrar changed. Dr. Ranendu Ghosh has been given charge of the Registrar due to the sudden demise of Soman Nair.

Women's Cell Convenor changed (from Prof. Binita Desai to Prof. Minal Bhise)

SBG Convenor changed

Two new faces in student representatives came in.

The above had the Director's approval. The same was posted on our website on 1 Oct 2022.

7. Highlights of NEP

IQAC Director brought in notice the following points of NEP and how these were actually internalized in DA-IICT. This was for everyone's knowledge:

Multidisciplinary / interdisciplinary

This is very much integrated in the basic philosophy of this university. The degree of ICT speaks all about this. This is an interdisciplinary concept which we have been taking forward since last two decades and we never deterred from this. We firmly believe that a student requires a broad base and a focused goal. In two of our flagship programs, one at UG level and the other at PG level, we teach our students computer science, IT, electronics, communication technology, VLSI besides basic science courses of maths and physics. Then we allow them to explore themselves what they want to learn.

Basically the concept of interdisciplinarity emanates from our teaching-learning system which we have internalized since the beginning. Our student does not become a mechanical engineer or a civil engineer or a computer scientist just because he/she opted for a branch in the first semester. But our passed out students can get a job in an automobile industry, knows how to contribute in city planning, can perform logistics optimization, even can make film and compose music. We have many alumni full of such examples.

Academic bank of credits (ABC)

ABC is a new concept introduced in the recent National Education Policy. We acknowledge the strength of this system, but in the university system it is too difficult to implement such disruptive changes. We are studying its implication in the entirety which will finally appraise the faculty community on its tangible advantages. Once all are on the same page, we will likely to execute it. Currently it is under study phase.

Skill development

The core idea of skill development is implicit in the natural incorporation of interdisciplinary curriculum and teaching philosophy of our university. Our students are hired by hard core VLSI company like Qualcomm or a basic computer engineering companies like Microsoft and Apple, frequently placed by e-commerce companies like Amazon and Flipkart, working for Boeing, CTO of boat, running Sprinklr, serving in top-notch FinTech companies – and there are endless such examples. This all is possible just because of no dearth of opportunities of multitude of skill development which is inbuilt in our curriculum and teaching-learning process.

Appropriate integration of Indian Knowledge system (teaching in Indian Language, culture, using online course)

Official language of teaching in DA-IICT is English. This is to make them competitive in international market, be it job or higher studies or even going for a startup. But in the informal approach one may find vernacular learning also. Group discussion may be found happening in their native language or mother tongue. In the cafeteria one may find students discussing the complex engineering concepts deliberated in Gujarati or Tamil or Malayam languages.

Cultural freedom is a strong point of our campus life which adds value to the learning process. We have a Cultural Committee in DA-IICT, run by students with a faculty as its mentor. This committee celebrates almost all festivals which fall during the semesters. This inculcates the foundation of secularism, respect for all religion and above all a team-spirit, which is fundamental of all learning processes. Learning here is boundaryless.

Referring to online courses is encouraged here. Faculty tell the students which are the preferred and authentic sources of these online courses. Instructors strongly discourage any online reference material which is non-verifiable, non-authentic and giving shallow information. In lighter context we say that don't make Wikipedia your text books. Students refer to NPTEL, Coursera, Udacity and other standard MOOC courses.

Focus on Outcome based education (OBE)

In DA-IICT we have developed learners/students centric curriculum which helps us achieve OBE. The Program(s) Outcome is released by Dean (AP) office which is then used by the Curriculum Review Committee(s) while reviewing the curriculum and placement of courses. In case of a new program proposal, the program proposal committee suggests the Program Outcome which is deliberated in the faculty meeting and finally the new program curriculum is shaped. It is then approved by the Academic Council. Course outcome is then aligned by the corresponding instructor while proposing (in case of a new course) or offering a course with the Program Outcome. The Undergraduate/Postgraduate Committee members review these alignments on regular basis.

In the actual course delivery, we give instructor flexibility to decide how he/she wants to interact with the class, what are the components of evaluation etc. For students learning, we keep continuous evaluation criteria right from the beginning. In fact, it is in the philosophy of the very foundation of DA-IICT. An instructor may take regular quizzes, assignments, viva, presentation, individual or group projects, term paper writing, formal exams and a balanced combination of any or many of them. This flexible approach allows students to develop the required skills as the course goes on during the semester. It does not insist on mugging the text book. In fact, in most of the elective courses, instructors prescribe reference books and not a particular text book. Students are free to learn from anywhere. We focus mostly on applied part and problem solving skills.

Distance education/online education

The pandemic year (2020-21) was quite a challenge for delivering education. It disrupted all known and creative ways of teaching and learning. A new script was written and that was online teaching. We, at DA-IICT, were suspecting since the early March 2020 that the social distancing may eventually lead to no-classroom teaching. Hence a healthy discussion of how to deliver online classes and conduct exams/quizzes etc. started in quite early stage. Many of the faculty were familiar of WebEx and we had used Mettl in past in conducting our online admissions tests. Therefore, for us, migration was not too difficult.

8. NIRF Analysis of past 5 years

This was an agenda in our 2 March 2021 meeting when the data of 2017-20 was presented and an open discussion was ensued. Now we had two more years data and our NIRF ranking kept rolling down. We fell from 70 in 2017 to 134 in 2022.

IQAC Director brought this trend in this highest forum to encourage everyone to think of the root cause and to suggest how to stop this dangerous trend.

DA-IICT (YoY, 2017-2022)								
Year	TLR (0.3)	RPC (0.3)	GO (0.15) (0.2 from 2021)	OI (0.15) (0.1 from 2021)	PR (0.1)	National Rank	Total No. of Engg Institutes Participated	Points Obtained (100)
2017	55.93	7.81	60.31	70.52	11.47	70	724	39.9
2018	49.72	8.68	62.14	45.81	6.44	106	906	34.4
2019	48.98	10.06	64.9	46.8	10.25	91	969	35.5
2020	47.25	10.86	68.33	49.81	7.12	111	1667	35.9
2021	50.12	11.09	71.68	48.81	6.19	107	1143	38.2
2022	48.59	10.64	71.82	49	6.07	134		37.6

If we see our performance in 2021, it says that we are worst performer among our similar institutes in two parameters, i.e., TLR and RPC.

NIRF 2021												
	DA-IICT	IITM	IITGn	Similar Institutes			Institutes of Gujarat				Other Institutes	
				IIITH	Jaypee (Noida)	IIITD	SVNIT	PDP	MSU	Nirma	SRM	VIT
TLR (30%) Teaching, Learning and Resources	50.12	71.6	60.26	50.8	53.07	50.8	64.14	70.1	56.5	52.02	60.32	61.41
RPC (30%) Research, Professional Practice & Collaborative Performance	11.09	92.51	37.15	33.1	23.11	31.8	34.4	23.3	14.8	13.43	50.91	69.7
GO (20%) Graduation Outcome	71.68	86.32	57.21	71.1	56.79	68	65.07	53.3	52.5	51.67	67.01	67
OI (10%) Outreach and Inclusivity	48.81	63.57	64.61	51.4	49.3	39.4	56.74	42.1	50.1	45.95	60.9	59.84
PR (10%) Peer Rating (Perception)	6.19	97.13	23.76	26.2	6.83	13.2	17.35	2.87	4.23	4.9	13.24	49.73
TOTAL Score (100)	38.2	86.76	56.86	47.1	39.82	44.9	49.99	43.2	37.3	35.03	54.17	63.68
National Rank	107	1	22	54	94	63	47	68	117	153	34	12

Again this point was left for brainstorming.

9. Discussion on ERP

The need of a robust ERP platform has been felt since long. This matter has been brought up in this meeting for knowledge and approval that we must expedite the procurement of an ERP package. Prof. JayPrakash Lalchandani is looking after the whole procurement process and its subsequent training. Users inputs have been taken.

The Registrar informed that soon we would be having a functional ERP platform. Migration of all data will take several months.

10. Feedback of Stakeholders (Faculty, Parents, Students, Employers and Alumni)

IQAC Director informed all the members that we developed a system of reaching out to all these stakeholders now. And we collected their feedback through surveying them. Survey analysis was under preparation and all would be shared shortly.

11. Alumni Engagement

The Director informed that the Core ExCom of the DA-IICT Alumni Association would be visiting DA-IICT the next day and a formal meeting with them was planned. Jyotiraditya (President), Aunindra Sinha (Vice President), Rajiv K Raju (Secretary), Prashanthi and G Sriram will be coming here. A road map of alumni engagement is one of the expected outcome of this meeting.

12. Academic Audit 2022

Academic Audit was conducted on 18 July 2022 with Profs. P.K. Biswas, Ganesh Devy and S.L. Maskara (he will remain online) as experts corresponding to all three domains of DA-IICT, i.e., CS, Humanities and E&C.

IQAC Director briefed all members the highlights of this academic audit:

- Total 23 faculty interacted with these three experts in three groups as announced.
- In the ice-breaking session Profs. S.L. Maskara, P.K. Biswas, Prof. Ganesh Devy - all explained the procedure that they were going to follow during the audit session. All said that this is not an interview of the faculty, they would just try to find out the delivery of the curriculum during the semester.
- It was a one-to-one interaction with each faculty. Prof. S.L. Maskara could not come, so his session was organized online.

Closing Meeting and Report Sharing:

- The common comment of all three experts was that faculty understood their course content and delivered well to the class.
- Big class size, particularly in core courses, engagement with class became a challenge. This challenge grew even further during the pandemic in online format.

Some particular comments that need attention are:

- Though students' feedback about the course (Course Feedback) is in place but it was not apparent if the faculty were using those feedback constructively to improve their course delivery next time.
- There should be a systematic procedure to update the courses and also the contents regularly, say every 2-3 years.
- While most of the courses had lab component, the tutorial component was missing in most of the cases. Tutorials should be incorporated. The idea of tutorial is that no new topic should be covered but the covered topic should be discussed and students should be given opportunity to ask their doubts.
- DA-IICT requires to induct more faculty members to strengthen the HASS component.

The Director asked the Dean (AP) to make some plan based on these inputs given by these experts so that we improve in our TLR parameter.

13. Administrative Audit 2022

It was conducted on 9 September 2022 for the Registrar Office and the RC. Mr. P.K. Chopra, Registrar, IIT Gandhinagar was the expert for audit of the Registrar Office and Dr. T.S. Kumbar, former Librarian, IIT Gandhinagar was invited to audit our Resource Centre function. A formal report is under preparation.

14. Any other point with Chair's approval

The Steering Committee that was empowered to make preparation for Cycle-2 of NAAC Accreditation was discontinued because of farewell of Prof. Sanjeev Gupta. The members of this committee were Prof Binita Desai, Prof Anish Mathuria, Prof Amit Bhatt, Prof Arnab Ray and Prof Amit Mankodi. Now Prof. Anjan Ghosh and Prof. Arnab Ray will look after the documentation part of the SSR.

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at 5:30 PM.



MoM Prepared by – Dr. Anil K. Roy, Director-IQAC